

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MARINE SPORT FISH RESEARCH CENTER TO BE DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 28

The Atlantic Marine Game Fish Research Center, established by the Department of the Interior to study the biological problems of America's fastest growing sport fishery, will be dedicated on September 28, 1961 by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., of New Jersey.

The Research Center is at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, in a former base hospital at Fort Hancock. The area was made available by the Department of the Army.

A large audience will be in attendance, including Senators, Members of Congress, scientists from colleges and research institutions, representatives of conservation and sportsmens organizations, State and local officials, and representatives of skin-diver organizations which have been doing considerable volunteer work for the new research program.

The current program of the new Center involves the following activities: Completion of a comprehensive report on a national survey of marine game fishing as a background for directing future research; development of a catalog of game fishing facilities; compilation of a listing of all existing knowledge on marine game fishes and their environment; the initiation of research to fill existing gaps in knowledge of the biology of migratory fishes which utilize a protected inshore environment, and the sponsoring of graduate training to stimulate the recruitment of marine biologists for work in this field.

To carry out the program, the Center has biological laboratory facilities; oceanographic instruments for salinity, temperature and current measurements; collecting equipment for plankton and fishes, and a salt-water system with tanks for culturing marine organisms and fishes.

Director of the Research Center is Dr. Lionel Walford, formerly head of the Washington Laboratory of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Marine sport fishermen catch more than half a billion pounds of fish each year and spend more than \$600 million doing it. The recent National Survey of Fishing and Hunting shows that 6,292,000 Americans engaged in salt-water fishing in 1960, an increase of about 38 percent over the 1955 figure. More than half of these marine anglers, or 3.4 million, fish in Atlantic waters.

A reception after the dedication will be under the auspices of the Atlantic Coast Marine Sports Fishermen's Association and the New Jersey Resort Association. The Research Center is a unit of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

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